लिए उनसे प्राप्त विशिष्ट प्रस्तावों, गुण-दोषों एवं पारस्परिक प्राथमिकताओं के आधार पर वित्तीय सहायता उपलब्ध कराता है। गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान केन्द्रीय पर्यटन विभाग द्वारा पंजाब सरकार को स्वीकृत की गई राशि नीचे दिए गए अनुसार थी :—

वर्ष	रु० लाखों में
1991-92	31.25
1992-93	135.83
1993-94	199.11

(2) पंजाब के प्रचार और संवर्धन पर अधिक जोर दिया गया है। विभाग के नवीनतम ब्रोशरों "एनचांटिड सरकिट्स" और "लिटल नोन टरियरस" में पंजाब के गन्तव्य स्थलों को शामिल किया गया है।

(3) पंजाब को पर्यटन विभाग द्वारा घोषित दो धार्मिक तीर्थ परिपथों अर्थात् सिख-हिन्दू परिपथ और निजामुद्दीन-अजमेर सरहिन्द परिपथ में शामिल कर दिया गया है।

Air Services from Gaya in Bihar

1348. SHRI NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of foreign tourists visit Gaya in Bihar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a major airport at Gaya; and

(c) if so, whether Government are seriously contemplating over the expansion of Gaya Airport and to introduce service from there with a view to earn foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Gaya has an airport which can accommodate AVRO type aircrafts.

(c) There is no proposal at present for the expansion of Gaya airport.

Aerodrome and air strips in Himachal Pradesh

1349. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number and location of aerodrome and air strips in Himachal Pradesh as on date alongwith their service conditions;

(b) whether it is a fact that the resource crunch has held up the modernisation and construction of aerodromes and air strips in that State;

(c) whether it is also a fact that tourists visiting Himachal Pradesh have complained of lack of infrastructure and high transport charges and also of water scarcity; and

(d) if so, what steps are being contemplated to meet such situations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) National Airports Authority (NAA) has 3 airports in Himachal Pradesh located at Gaggal, Bhuntar and Shimla. All these airports are operational.

(b) No, Sir. Development of airports and other infrastructural facilities is a continuing process and is taken up in a phased manner, depending upon projected requirements and availability of resources.

NAA has undertaken developmental works at Gaggal. Due to difficult terrain at Shimla and Bhuntar, it has not been found feasible to upgrade these airports.

(c) and (d) Improving of tourists facilities is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government.

Better treatment by foreign airlines

1350. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVI-

ATION ANO TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a write up in Tribune, dated 29th August, 1994 to the effect that foreign airlines get better treatment at the cost of national airlines; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The allegations were investigated and it was observed that the Air Traffic Control is following the defined procedurts for allotment of flight levels to aircraft as well as for issue of clearance for landing and take off from airports.

Incident in IA Airbus IC-939

1351. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was some incident of panic and commotion in Indian Airlines Airbus No. IC-939 from Hyderabad to Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the incident occurred nearly an hour after the delayed take-off of the plane;

(d) if so, the reasons for not ensuring proper technical functioning of the aircraft during delayed take-off period;

(e) whether Government propose to take some action to check such incidents in future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines Airbus A-320 aircraft VT-EPT, operating flight IC-939 of 21.11.94 from Hyderabad to Delhi was involved in an incident of smoke warning in rear cargo Compartment signal coming "on" during flight. Actual smoke was reported by the cabin crew in the rear cabin. Necessary action was carried out by the pilot and the warning disappeared after ten minutes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Prior to the departure of the aircraft from Hyderabad, there was a delay of 25 minutes to rectify a snag in the hydraulic system of the aircraft. The aircraft was checked and certified airworhty before departure. This snag had no connection with the snag which occurred in the flight.

(e) and (f) The incident is under investigation. Action will be taken on the recommendations emanating from the investigation report.

Opening of tourist offices abroad

*1352. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourist offices opened abroad;

(b) the main objectives of opening tourist offices in those countries; and

(c) the details of tourist officers and other staff working in those offices?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) At present there are eighteen Govt. of India Tourist Offices functioning abroad whose main objective is to promote India as an attractive tourist destination through extensive publicity and promotional compaigns, or-